

1 Nada Smith

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you ever have any complaints  
4 from anyone that came in and said, "Hey, the  
5 internet price is a lot lower than the price  
6 they're trying to sell me cars at"?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Who made up, if you know, the  
9 position that you took -- that in order to  
10 obtain an internet price, that they had to  
11 finance the automobile?

12 A. I'm sorry, who? Can you repeat  
13 that?

14 Q. You just testified that you heard  
15 one or two people say that they were told in  
16 order to get the internet price for a car that  
17 they had to obtain financing. Was that a  
18 written policy of New York Motor Group?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Is that something your father ever  
21 told you?

22 A. Not that I know of.

23 Q. Who said that?

24 A. It was a salesperson that said it  
25 to a client.

1 Nada Smith

2 Q. Do you remember if that client  
3 ended up purchasing the car?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Who took care of the internet  
6 pricing; who set the internet price?

7 A. I don't know.

8 Q. You said you had an internet  
9 person onsite?

10 A. Yes. It was a few different girls  
11 that came in and out. I'm not sure if she was  
12 the one that was doing it or the sales manager  
13 was doing it.

14 Q. Do you know if M&T Bank had  
15 anything to do with the setting of a price on  
16 the internet for any of your cars?

17 A. No, absolutely not.

18 Q. Did you to the best of your  
19 knowledge know whether or not each of the  
20 financial institutions that New York Motor  
21 Group used had their own separate documents  
22 that they required to be filled out in order to  
23 obtain financing?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No, you don't know?

1 Nada Smith

2 A. I don't know.

3 Q. Did you ever have any complaints  
4 from any of your customers, saying that M&T's  
5 financing, that the terms of their financing  
6 were too great and they could not afford it?

7 A. Yes, I have had customers complain  
8 about that.

9 MR. SIMON: You've got to keep  
10 your voice up so we can hear.

11 A. Yes, I've had customers complain  
12 about that.

13 Q. Was that during the time that  
14 Julio worked there?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Did you ever contact M&T Bank  
17 about that?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Did you ever tell your father  
20 about that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What did he do?

23 A. He spoke to Julio about it, and  
24 Julio seemed to take care of the complaint.

25 Q. Do you know how he took care of

1 Nada Smith

2 that complaint?

3 A. No. I never followed up with him.

4 Q. Did you ever hear, during the time  
5 that you said the complaints were coming in  
6 about Julio Estrada, that anyone complained  
7 that Julio had covered up terms of the papers  
8 that they were signing?

9 A. No.

10 Q. What other type of complaints did  
11 you remember people saying about Mr. Estrada?

12 A. That he overcharged them. That he  
13 took money from them. Basically, that the  
14 client was overcharged by Julio and that Julio  
15 took money from them and it was never returned  
16 to the client.

17 Q. As part of your job duties and  
18 responsibilities at New York Motor Group, did  
19 you ever receive any phone calls from any of  
20 your customers saying, "Hey, I spoke to M&T  
21 Bank. I had a problem and they told me to call  
22 the dealership directly"?

23 A. Not that I remember.

24 Q. If a complaint came in about Julio  
25 Estrada from a client, is it possible that

1 Nada Smith

2 Julio spoke to them directly and it wouldn't go  
3 through you?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You stated that you were a  
6 signatory on the bank account of New York Motor  
7 Group?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. For how long were you a signatory?

10 A. A few months. It wasn't the full  
11 year that I was there.

12 Q. Why did you become a signatory?

13 A. Because my father was never at the  
14 dealership and we did have clients coming in  
15 for refunds and I did need to pay bills and  
16 everything. But nothing went out without his  
17 approval.

18 Q. Counsel had talked about -- and  
19 again, I apologize if I'm pronouncing this  
20 incorrectly -- one of the plaintiffs in one of  
21 these lawsuits is named "Chowdhury"?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you remember that person in  
24 particular?

25 A. Yes. That's the mother and son?

1 Nada Smith

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. Do you remember what their  
5 complaint was about Mr. Estrada?

6 A. I'm not sure, because every time  
7 they came they would go straight to Julio and  
8 Julio would talk to them.

9 Q. Did they ever say anything to you  
10 about Mr. Estrada?

11 A. That he overcharged them, and  
12 stuff like that. But they didn't directly talk  
13 to me. They just spoke out loud.

14 Q. Did they ever make any complaints  
15 about M&T Bank to you?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you know if they ever had a  
18 resolution of their complaint regarding Julio  
19 Estrada with your father or the company?

20 A. I don't know, but I stopped seeing  
21 them, so I assume that Julio handled their  
22 issue.

23 Q. Did you, by the way, read or did  
24 anyone tell you what the allegations are in  
25 these complaints against you and your father?

1 Nada Smith

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you ever discuss it with your  
4 father?

5 A. About? I'm sorry, can you repeat  
6 that?

7 Q. Sure. You know there are lawsuits  
8 in which you're named as a party in these  
9 lawsuits?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Do you know what the allegations  
12 are against you?

13 A. Some of them. Not all.

14 Q. The ones that you do know; what  
15 are you aware of those allegations being?

16 A. Clients claiming that -- I'm  
17 sorry.

18 Q. Sure, take your time.

19 A. They're just complaining that -- I  
20 was involved in a lot of their complaints with  
21 Julio. But like I said, I'd never done  
22 finance, so I don't know what -- all I just  
23 know is that Julio did overcharge them.

24 Q. How do you know that?

25 A. Because the customer will complain

1 Nada Smith

2 about it.

3 Q. Did any of the customers ever make  
4 any complaints about anyone other than Julio  
5 overcharging them?

6 A. No, just Julio.

7 Q. Did anyone ever make complaints  
8 about you being involved with that?

9 A. They say that I was a witness.  
10 But I was never present.

11 Q. Did any of the customers --  
12 outside of these lawsuits -- ever say to you,  
13 "I think you're involved with this"?

14 A. Yes. And I told them that I  
15 have -- I told them that his job -- Julio's job  
16 is Julio's job. I don't know what Julio does.  
17 I explained to them that I have nothing to do  
18 with what Julio does.

19 Q. Did you ever receive any  
20 complaints during the time that you were  
21 working for New York Motor Group about any  
22 other employees other than Julio Estrada?

23 A. I don't think so. It was mainly  
24 Julio. All the complaints coming in were for  
25 Julio. And from the finance department.

1 Nada Smith

2 Q. Did you ever get complaints from  
3 any customers saying that the salespeople were  
4 using pressure tactics in order for them to  
5 purchase cars?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you ever receive any  
8 complaints from anyone saying that your  
9 internet person is putting up fake numbers on  
10 the internet?

11 A. No.

12 Q. One of the attorneys here spoke to  
13 you about Mr. Tuhin and the fact that there was  
14 some protesting going on?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you remember that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Do you remember the first time you  
19 met Mr. Tuhin?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. When was that?

22 A. I don't remember when it was  
23 exactly.

24 Q. Let me ask you this. Was it  
25 before or after he had proceeded with the

1                   Nada Smith

2       purchase of his automobile?

3               A.     It was when he was purchasing his  
4       automobile, when he purchased his vehicle. I  
5       had never met him before. I just met him the  
6       day that he bought his vehicle.

7               Q.     Why don't you tell me this,  
8       because I don't think it was explained during  
9       your deposition. Take me through the steps of  
10      when someone walks into that showroom looking  
11      for a particular car. How does it work? They  
12      meet with the salesperson who shows them the  
13      car; is that how it works?

14              A.     Yes.

15              Q.     After they see a salesperson, who  
16      determines what the price of the car is going  
17      to be?

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18              A.     Julio and the salesperson.

19              Q.     So if someone walks in and sees a  
20      sticker on a car for \$12,000, can that person  
21      then say, "I only want to pay \$10,000"?

22              A.     He can negotiate with the  
23      salesperson.

24              Q.     Did New York Motor Group allow  
25      negotiations on their purchases?

1 Nada Smith

2 A. I don't know. I was never on the  
3 sales floor or spoke to any salespeople like  
4 that.

5 Q. After an amount was determined for  
6 the purchase of an automobile, would it be  
7 determined if the person then needed to obtain  
8 financing to purchase the car?

9 A. I would believe so.

10 Q. If someone wanted to purchase an  
11 automobile without obtaining financing, would  
12 they ever see Julio Estrada?

13 A. I think so. I think -- I think  
14 all of the customers who walked in met with  
15 Julio.

16 Q. That's what I'm saying.

17 So they would see Julio whether or  
18 not they wanted to purchase the cars outright  
19 without financing --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- or whether they wanted to  
22 obtain financing?

23 A. Yes, all the clients met with  
24 Julio.

25 Q. Were you ever directly involved in

1                   Nada Smith

2           any of the discussions between Mr. Estrada and  
3   Mr. Tuhin?

4                   A.     No.

5                   Q.     Were you ever involved in any of  
6   the discussions between Mr. Estrada and  
7   Ms. Chowdhury?

8                   A.     No.

9                   Q.     Were you ever involved in any of  
10  the discussions between Mr. Estrada and  
11  Mr. Gabrys?

12                  A.     No.

13                   MR. SIMON: Off the record.

14                   (A discussion is held off the  
15  record.)

16                  Q.     I'm going to show you what has  
17  been previously marked as Defendant's Exhibit F  
18  at a deposition on October 28, 2014.

19                   I will ask you if you know what  
20  this document is. If you have your copies,  
21  it's Bates-stamp PRFD 000022.

22                   MR. SIMON: That was the Tuhin  
23  deposition?

24                   MR. GROSSMAN: I think this was  
25  the Gabrys deposition on the 28th.

1 Nada Smith

2 A. Yes, that's a credit ap.

3 Q. Let me make sure that your counsel  
4 is okay with you answering first. Have you  
5 seen that type of document before?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you know what that is?

8 A. Yes. It's a credit application.

9 Q. Do you know if that document was  
10 used by New York Motor Group for all the  
11 financial institutions that they were using to  
12 obtain financing?

13 MR. SIMON: If you know.

14 A. I can't say for all of them,  
15 because I'm not sure, but the ones that I have  
16 seen in the deal jackets, this is what it looks  
17 like.

18 Q. Do you know who fills that out?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Do you know who signs it? Do you  
21 want to look at the last page?

22 A. "Applicant signature" -- so the  
23 applicant would be signing it.

24 Q. Were you ever involved in any of  
25 those documents that say "Dealertrack" at the

1                               Nada Smith

2       top ever being forwarded to either M&T Bank or  
3       Santander?

4                   A.       No.

5                   Q.       Do you know who provides the  
6       information that goes in that document?

7                   A.       I don't know.

8                   Q.       Do you know whether or not  
9       M&T Bank has anything to do with the  
10      preparation of that document?

11                  A.       I don't know.

12                  Q.       Do you know what happens with that  
13      document when it gets sent to the financial  
14      institutions with respect to financing?

15                  A.       I don't know.

16                  Q.       When you were asked by Mr. Estrada  
17      to fax something, do you remember ever faxing  
18      that document to M&T Bank?

19                  A.       I don't remember.

20                  Q.       You had testified earlier that  
21      there would be times that you would sign and  
22      put your name on some bank documents. Do you  
23      remember that?

24                  A.       Yes, but it was only DMV-related.  
25      It wasn't bank-related.

1                               Nada Smith

2                   Q.     When you say "DMV-related," what  
3     are you talking about?

4                   A.     I mean like the odometer statement  
5     that he had presented to me before, or an  
6     MV-82 -- that stuff I believe the bank needs.

7                   Q.     You would never sign a Dealertrack  
8     document?

9                   A.     No.

10                  Q.     Would you sign a credit  
11     application?

12                  A.     No.

13                  Q.     Did you ever sign a Retail  
14     Installment Agreement?

15                  A.     I don't even know what that is.

16                               MR. GROSSMAN: One has already  
17     been marked, right?

18                               MR. SIMON: She was shown it this  
19     morning. It had been marked at the  
20     Tuhin deposition.

21                  Q.     You had been previously shown this  
22     document, which is Defendant's Exhibit C from  
23     the deposition on 10/27/14. Would this be a  
24     bank document that you would ever sign?

25                  A.     No.

1 Nada Smith

2 Q. How about a bill of sale? Did you  
3 ever sign that?

4 A. No.

5 Q. So your testimony, ma'am, is that  
6 you would only sign DMV documents and send them  
7 to the bank?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you ever sign anyone's name  
10 but your own on any documents?

11 A. No, never.

12 Q. Were you ever asked to do that?

13 A. Never.

14 Q. Did M&T Bank ever ask you to sign  
15 any documents on someone's behalf other than  
16 your own name?

17 A. Never. I never even spoke to M&T  
18 Bank.

19 Q. How about Santander? Did they  
20 ever ask you?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did you ever attempt to contact  
23 M&T Bank with any complaint that any customers  
24 ever made to you?

25 A. No.

1 Nada Smith

2 Q. Were you ever present during any  
3 conversations that Mr. Estrada ever had with  
4 M&T Bank?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Do you know if Mr. Estrada ever  
7 told you that he had spoken to M&T Bank?

8 A. I think so.

9 Q. Do you know how often you spoke to  
10 him?

11 A. No.

12 Q. What about Santander? Do you know  
13 if Mr. Estrada ever said that he spoke to  
14 Santander?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you know what the sum and  
17 substance of those conversations were?

18 A. No idea.

19 Q. How about your father? Did he  
20 ever speak to M&T Bank that you're aware of?

21 A. I don't know.

22 Q. Do you know if your father ever  
23 spoke to Santander Bank?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. One of the questions that was

1 Nada Smith

2 asked of you was whether anyone ever wanted to  
3 return a vehicle before funding. Do you  
4 remember that question?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. So that the record is clear, when  
7 we talk about "funding," we're talking about at  
8 the time that the money is given to New York  
9 Motor Group.

10 A. I don't know what "funding"  
11 exactly is, but I know that it means that the  
12 loan went through completely.

13 Q. So that we are clear, when you  
14 answered that question when you said that  
15 the -- before funding, did that mean when the  
16 loan went through completely? Did that mean  
17 the time that New York Motor Group got the  
18 money, or after the bank approved the loan?

19 A. Hold on, I'm sorry.

20 Q. Sure.

21 A. This is a little rough for  
22 me -- doesn't the -- no, it gets approved  
23 before the customer leaves with the car.

24 Q. The loan gets approved before the  
25 customer leaves with the car?

1 Nada Smith

2 A. I think so.

3 Q. Again, I'm not asking you to  
4 guess. It's not a test.

5 A. Okay. I don't know. I really  
6 don't know, sorry.

7 Q. When the dealership would get the  
8 financing amount, would it be wired into the  
9 dealership's bank account?

10 A. I don't know.

11 Q. Would you get any type of  
12 confirmation from either Santander or M&T after  
13 the funding was completed to New York Motor  
14 Group?

15 A. I don't know.

16 Q. Do you know how many times a month  
17 M&T Bank would fund a purchase for New York  
18 Motor Group?

19 A. How often?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. No, I wouldn't know.

22 Q. Same question for Santander; would  
23 you know that?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You mentioned that Mr. Tuhin had

1 Nada Smith

2 his car approximately one month before he came  
3 in and complained?

4 A. I believe a little over one month,  
5 because Mohammed had told me -- the sales  
6 manager at the time had told me that he made  
7 payments. I don't know if he meant "payment,"  
8 or "payments" in general. But I know that  
9 Mr. Tuhin had the vehicle a while before he  
10 came in to return it.

11 Q. What was the time period between  
12 the first time he came in and made a complaint  
13 and the time that he had the protest?

14 A. I'm not sure. I don't remember.

15 Q. One of the questions that was  
16 asked of you had to do with whether you  
17 received complaints from customers; that they  
18 were told that the interest was to go down on a  
19 loan that they took out. Do you remember that  
20 question?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And you said that you approached  
23 Mr. Estrada about it; he showed you how it can  
24 be done?

25 A. Yes.

1 Nada Smith

2 Q. How did he show you that it could  
3 be done?

4 A. He showed me where he used to work  
5 before, a client that he had. He had taken a  
6 picture of his, you know, approval and  
7 everything like that. I don't know why he  
8 would do so, but he had showed me. And he  
9 showed me that -- he just explained to me that  
10 if a client does make a payment on time,  
11 because I'm not sure how finance works, so I  
12 only go by his word.

13 Q. That's fine.

14 A. So he told me that if a customer  
15 makes his payments on time that his interest  
16 rate will go down. And I said, "How often?" I  
17 asked Julio how often does that happen. And he  
18 said, "All the time."

19 Q. Did he say that the bank that gave  
20 the financing would be the one that would give  
21 the lower interest rate, or he would go to a  
22 different bank?

23 A. I didn't get too detailed into it,  
24 because I didn't know. I don't know.

25 Q. Did he ever tell you which banks

1                               Nada Smith

2           he would go to, to help them refinance after  
3           they made their payments?

4                       A.     No.

5                       Q.     Did you ask him?

6                       A.     No.

7                       Q.     Did you ever see Ms. Chowdhury  
8           sign any documents in order to obtain  
9           financing?

10                      A.     I don't remember honestly. But  
11           she did -- I had her sign the MV-50 and MV-82,  
12           the DMV paperwork that I had pulled out for her  
13           to sign. So I'm guessing she did sign the  
14           paperwork and everything, the agreement to  
15           finance.

16                      Q.     Did she make any complaints about  
17           her arrangements to obtain financing at that  
18           time?

19                      A.     At the time of the purchase of the  
20           vehicle, no.

21                      Q.     How about Mr. Gabrys? Did you  
22           ever see him sign any financing documents?

23                      A.     No.

24                      Q.     Did he ever make any complaints to  
25           you about the financing documents that he